

Friends of Flagstaff's Future

Annual Report

2010-2011



Friends of Flagstaff's Future
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MISSION AND VISION

Friends of Flagstaff's Future is a local, grass roots, member based, and volunteer led nonprofit organization. We envision Flagstaff as a socially just community that embraces environmentally sustainable lifestyles, protects open spaces with their ecological diversity, supports locally owned businesses committed to enhancing our natural environment, encourages the democratic process, and offers opportunities for all to live happy and productive lives.

Our mission is to create a healthy and sustainable Flagstaff through advocacy, education, and community building.

F³ does not have any financial interest in the policies and initiatives we advocate for. We do not represent a particular socio-economic class, industry, or private interest. Our goal is to improve the quality of life of all people calling the greater Flagstaff home.

2010-2011 FOCUS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

While we have a broad vision and various goals our 2010-2011 focus included the following topics:

- Growth: Land Use/Open Space
- Water Conservation
- Social Justice and Diversity
- Transportation and Transition Initiative
- Green and Local Economy
- Building Community

To best carry out our mission and maximize our effectiveness we have been operating in the following levels:

- New Programs
- Community Service and F³ Events
- Partnerships and Co-Sponsored Events
- Advocacy and Positions
- Research
- Education and Outreach

New Programs

1. KARES (Kids Art and Reading for the Environment and Sustainability)

KARES started small but has become an inspiring program serving hundreds of kids at the Family Food Center, Community Market, and other locations. The program includes a lending library of sustainably focused kids' books, story and reading times, and recycled art projects. KARES was initiated by a community grant (SUPPER), received summer support from the Community Market and Heritage Square Trust, and is fully operated by our interns and volunteers.



2. Zero Waste Event

We bought over 200 sets of reusable kitchenware and are providing them free of charge for community and private events. This program hopes to reduce waste and overuse of raw materials and promote a sustainable flagstaff one plate at a time. So far we have partnered with Willow Bend, SEDI's Green Drinks, NAU Green Jacks, and numerous private businesses and families in Flagstaff.

3. Reskilling Workshops and Resiliency Circles

The Transition Movement is a global effort to make our local communities more resilient in this age of economic contraction, climate change, and peak oil production. Over the years important do-it-yourself skills have been lost. The "Great Reskilling," is the process of regaining basic skills like growing food, raising animals, spinning, weaving, knitting, and more. F³ Transition Action Team started two reskilling groups: Spinner's Gathering and Flagstaff Food Preservers. In addition the Team is facilitating a Transition Resilience Circle. Resilience Circles are self-help groups that create greater resilience in members' lives.



Community Service and F³ Events

1. Trail Cleanups

We adopted the Karen Cooper Trail (Cheshire) and Buffalo Park 2 mile Loop Trail (McMillan Mesa) and conduct monthly trail cleanups with an emphasis on families, children, and youth. Themed trail cleanups include our Llama and 4H team clean up, Toddlers on the Trail, and Family Day Out.



2. Downtown Beautification

We worked with local businesses to make our downtown more sustainable and beautiful by planting drought tolerant plants and flowers, putting in ashtrays, and cleaning the Downtown Plaza off E Route 66.



3. 4th of July Plastic Bottle Collection

We collected used plastic bottles during the 4th of July Parade. over 1,000 bottles were later used at our KARES program to make recycled bird feeders

4. Free Bike Repairs

We coordinated, in collaboration with AZ Bikes and Cosmic Ray, free bike repairs in Southside.



5. Solar Oven Picnic and Apple Festival

We put together a solar oven picnic and apple festival at Buffalo Park with free food, hands on activities, spinning demonstrations, solar oven discussion, and apple juice making.



6. First Friday ArtWalk events

We host monthly education displays and member art shows at our downtown F³ office. Previous topics included: Remembering the Schultz Fire, Plastic Bag Effects-moving to a plastic free community, Imagine Flagstaff Without Cars-youth art display, Alternative Halloween-snacks and treats that are good for you and the planet,

7. FUNdraising events

We coordinated over 3 large scale fundraising events including our annual GALA with over 250 participants, our downtown photoshoot, a community yard sale, and more!

Partnerships and Co-Sponsored Events

1. Circle of Karma Business Partnership

We teamed up with various local businesses to develop a program that benefits our community. Once a month each business contributes a % of sales to our organization. Those contributions go directly to fund community events and programs. This program demonstrates the circular way conscious shopping can support local businesses, which in turn, return that support to the community.



2. Car Free Day Sep 22nd

On Sep 22nd we join an international movement and along with the City and County coordinate Car Free Flag, with a K-12 art contest, an evening celebration, and over 300 pledges to bike, walk, or take the bus.

3. Gathering of Green Groups

We coordinate and sponsor a yearly meeting of all green and environmental groups working in the greater Flagstaff area. This meeting emphasizes collaborations, partnership building, support of issues, and pulling together of resources.

4. Movie Screenings

Together with other organizations we sponsor free monthly movie screenings at the Green Room. In addition we co-sponsor special guest speakers and unique movie screenings such as 9500 Liberty, FLOW and more.

5. Anti-Uranium Mining Benefit Conference

We co-sponsored an educational benefit concert at the Orpheum Theater covering the effects of uranium mining in Grand Canyon National Park. The concert raised funds to help cover costs for tribal elders to attend government hearings dealing with uranium mining.

6. Flagstaff Community Market

We are yearly sponsors of the Flagstaff Community Market



Advocacy and Positions:

We have been engaged with local, state, and national policy makers, and have taken a clear position on the following issues:

1. Zoning Code and Regional Plan:

We have been involved with researching, commenting, and editing these important documents assuring open space, sustainable building practices, alternative transportation and energy, are incorporated.



2. Rain Water Harvesting Stakeholder Group

We have been involved in the city's Rain Water Harvesting Task Force to assure the city moves in the direction of utilizing rain water in future development, as well as encourage current housing and commercial buildings to utilize rain water harvesting.

3. Supported FUSD Anti Bullying Initiative

We attended and gave testimonies at official FUSD meetings dealing with bullying and aggression in the Flagstaff schools. We supported the FUSD Anti Bullying Initiative.

4. Supported open space commission and bond: Picture Canyon

In the past decade we worked hard to approve an open space commission and a bond for preserving open space. This year we saw that work pay off with the purchase and preservation of Picture Canyon.

5. Supported social justice: oppose S.B. 1070

We took a strong stand on immigrant right and social justice by opposing the controversial S.B.1070

6. Supported alternative transportation and sustainable development: oppose bypass 180

We opposed building more roads to solve traffic issue on 180, and instead pushed for the development of alternative transportation routes, and investment in public transportation.

7. Supported protection of Walnut Canyon: oppose a shooting range near the park

We supported the increased protection of Walnut Canyon as open natural space, and opposed a shooting range near the Park.

8. Promoted environmental stewardship: oppose uranium mining in GCNP

We worked to educate the public about the dangers of uranium mining as well as encourage public comment on uranium mining in GCNP.

9. Promoted water conservation and sustainable recreation: oppose snowmaking

We oppose energy intensive, water wasteful, and culturally disrespectful snowmaking operation on the San Francisco Peaks

Research

1. Snow Play Park Survey

We administrated a survey to look at community attitudes towards snowmaking and a private sno park on McMillan Mesa.

2. Sustainable Communities

Looking at and learning from sustainable community practices around the country.

Education and Outreach

1. Tabling

We have volunteers and interns table at special events, as well as weekly during the Community Market.



2. Transition Movement Presentations

Our Transition Team gives regular free presentations student groups, churches, and other organizations, about moving from a coal based society to a zero impact community.

3. The Flagstaff Voice

Our bi-yearly printed publication covering local issues, events, calls for action, public participation opportunities and more.

VOLUNTEERING REPORT

F³ has a long history of volunteer engagement, with over 200 members on our volunteer list. This year we further emphasized our volunteering opportunities and intern positions. We have a part time volunteer coordinator, and are working collaboratively with both NAU and CCC to provide meaningful intern opportunities for students. We are excited to report the following:

- Total Volunteers on list: 212
- Number of NAU interns: 7
- Youth volunteers: 29
- Number of weekly volunteers: 3
- Average number of volunteers at events: 20
- Hours volunteered at events and community service: 698
- Total hours volunteered: ~3500



PLANS FOR 2011-2012

We are planning to stay involved in Flagstaff issues, increase our community building and services, continue our outreach and educational activities, and develop new programs and projects. We are also excited about the many events we hope to sponsor, coordinate and be part of. Some of our plans include:

Projects:

Growing Green: FoodLink F³ partnership program: Supported by a grant from the Flagstaff Community Foundation this program will support a community gardens coordinator, a school gardens director, community workshops, kids activities relating to healthy and local food, and more.

Continuation of our KARES program and an expansion of our ZERO WASTE EVENT

Campaigns:

Shop Local Holiday Campaign: In partnership with NAU student groups, SEDI, FIBA, and Shift AZ we are coordinating a shop local holiday campaign and Shop Local DAY event to support local businesses and our unique downtown.

Issues:

Our main upcoming issues focus on water conservation, open space preservation, the promotion of a sustainable community, and promotion of a green economy.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any further questions about what we do, our mission, or would like to partner with us please contact our Development and Programs Director, Moran Henn, at moran.henn@friendsofflagstaff.org, our Outreach Coordinator, Cynthia Pardo, at cynthia.pardo@friendsofflagstaff.org, call our office at (928) 556 8663, join us on FB, or check our website www.friendsofflagstaff.org.